

## **Meeting Minutes**

**April 16, 2014**

Members in Attendance: Molly Flueckiger, Heidi Hample, Rachel Buonopane, Susan James, Kerrie Fallon, Michael Rademacher, John Thompson, Maureen St. Hilaire

Members Absent: Burt Pusch

Others Present: Jack Jones/ADA Coordinator, Janice Dallas, Jeff Lafata (Founder and Executive Director of EPIC), Danny van Leeuwen (Arlington resident, Advocates)

Meeting began at 4:00 pm

### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

### **2. Approve Meeting Minutes**

- Approval of Meeting Minutes from 2/19/14, 3/19/14

### **3. Guest: Jeff Lafata, EPIC Executive Director**

- Topic: Accessible Icon Project
- Jeff educates group on programs at Triangle/ offering programs to people in north east Massachusetts
- EPIC (empowering people for inclusive communities) youth leadership programs, special needs youth performing outreach, education on disabilities & inclusion and volunteer work in the Greater Boston Area. Program is in its third year. They begin recruitment in November, Applications due in February and interview process begins in April each year
- Impact: self-defense classes for people with disabilities
- Ablevision: television broadcast fully staffed by people with disabilities
- Accessible Icon Project- get people to re-examine how we portray, see & treat people with disabilities
- The project does not yet have the full support of the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board for official use of signs/ in the process of getting authorized
- Currently it is okay to paint on ground in public and private lots as well as change signs in private lots with proper permissions
- Until full support of Mass AAB and Department of Transportation it is not recommended to change public signs or painting on spots on the streets
- Other Towns have adopted the sign, Burlington, and will be using in all town property lots
- Currently Triangle is working with Mass AAB regarding the ownership of the symbol, looking to have the symbol become public domain

- Three organizations they are working with to change the symbol officially on record, ADA, AAB and DOT
- DOT- in their regulations they specifically display the International symbol of access (therefore the restriction on painting spots of the street)
- “painting events” can be publicized and have volunteer to come out and paint, the EPIC volunteers get involved with these projects, and/or the town and private lots can paint on their own
- Discussion of approaching private businesses in town as well as the Board of Selectmen, School Committee (SEPAC)
- Mike suggests to get town on Board first
- Jeff will email the Commission with the contact in Burlington, for us to get more information regarding the Town adopting the symbol
- ***Follow up with Jeff and Town of Burlington and work towards educating Arlington and presenting symbol to Board of Selectmen***

#### **4. Projects & Strategic Planning**

- Molly presented letter drafted to Board of Selectmen regarding outdoor seating and suggestions from the Commission on Disability, reviewing background of laws and COD suggestion of outdoor seating placement
- Letter reviewed by members of the Commission and suggestions of revisions made
- Molly to revise letter to be sent out
- John makes suggestion of handout to give to businesses regarding COD suggestions-> ***John to work on this handout***
- ***Jack to forward powerpoint presentation to John from Cambridge to use as reference***
- Policy proposal- policy written regarding offering financial support the community members wanting to attend Commission meeting. Reimbursement to be capped at particular amount. Members voted in favor 7 yes, 0 no
- Updates
- Arlington Center Parking Study- The presentation to Board of Selectmen(BOS) did not include accessible parking
- Arlington Heights suggested additional accessible parking space- approved by BOS
- Accessibility @ the Senior Center- concern with lack of parking is ongoing. Jack suggested spots on Maple Street side of building. What is the plan? What is the timeline? The State will no longer lease office space in the building due to lack of sufficient accessible parking. Redevelopment board is reportedly responsible for working on this project, along with Fred (the building manager).
- Other-Discussion regarding school vans being parked in the accessible spaces at the Gibbs school. There have been complaints that visitors to the school do not have proper place to park their vehicles if in need of accessible space as these vans are parked there all day. Discussion of how we can help resolve issue. Suggestion of itemizing spots for the school vans, leaving the accessible spaces available. ***Commission to follow up with the school.***

- Master Plan- transportation working on plan at Broadway and Mass Ave. Concerns about curb cuts/ not safe.
- Curb cut project- John following up of curb cut ramps completed. List of FY2014 to be done. *Mike to consolidate lists with his staff, labeling completed curb cuts*. Mike requesting list for FY 2015 to be completed and finalized by the end of June. Community requests should go to John Thompson @ [rangeley1@comcast.net](mailto:rangeley1@comcast.net). Community complaints regarding issues with sidewalks or curb cuts can be reported on the Town website- request the answer center.
- Mike reports that money for condition of sidewalks and curb cuts study is being considered.

## **5. Annual Report to Town Meeting**

- Submitted report to the Town in January
- Commission has opportunity to address town meeting members for 2-3 minutes during a Town Meeting. Discussed that we should not just read our annual report. Town Meeting occurs Monday and Wednesday 8-11. Molly presented Commission members with proposed talking points. Some members wanted to review for a bit before formally confirming what would be presented at Town Meeting.

## **6. ADA Coordinator's Report**

- Lt. Conroy reports that Arlington notifies RMV when they issue illegal parking in accessible spaces.
- Betsy Crimmins an Attorney Greater Boston Legal Services is offering support to tenants regarding their legal right in regard to Summit House apartments converting to condos. A meeting was held for residents on 4/7/14 and a second meeting will take place on 4/24/14. Jack, Laura Wiener and Lorie August to attend the second meeting.
- Vinnie Kilcommons of the Town Engineering Dept called requesting list of curb cut ramps, Jack made a list. Jack and John to work together to revise the list, as some of the curb cuts suggested are already slotted for road projects.
- Burt Pusch has been accepted by the BOS as a new member of the Commission on Disability. Term 4/7/14-6/30/17.
- BOS approved suggested parking space in Arlington Heights Business District.

## **7. Announcements**

- Reported woman that is blind was hit in a crosswalk
- Susan spoke with theatre group (True Story Theatre) about performing play on disabilities. Discussed about them securing money to fund the event. Discussion of holding in community room and town facility. Group has upcoming performance on May 10 from 7:30-9:15 at Arlington Center Yoga (Two who Dared)

***Handouts Issued to Commission Members during Meeting***

*Meeting notes of 2/19/14, 3/19/14*

*Today's meeting agenda*

*Commission Project Guidelines*

*ADA coordinator's report*

*Molly's drafted letter to BOS regarding outdoor seating*

*BOS response to Arlington Heights suggested accessible parking space*

*Policy proposal regarding community member reimbursement to attend meetings*

*Jack's suggested FY 2015 curb cut list*

*Drafted town meeting talking points*

*Information packet from Triangle regarding programs offered including Accessible Icon Project*

*ADA, state laws regarding conversion of apartments to condos and people's rights*

*Open meeting law*

**Meeting adjourned 6:05 pm**

**Next Meeting set May 21, 2014**